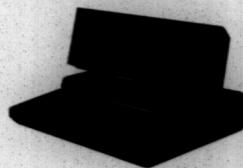


EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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A changed nation, an unchanging God

There are people who believe everything has changed in the last six months. Monday, March 11 marked the six-month anniversary of the most profound and deadly attacks ever on American soil and our way of life. The terrorist atrocities of September 11 in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, destroyed thousands of lives and families. Many others who survived are shattered for life.

Like the human loss, the financial costs of the attacks are beyond comprehension but will surely run into the hundreds of billions of dollars in property damage, jobs lost, and productivity declines in the emotionally devastated.

The terrorists really did hit us where it hurts. They knew what they were doing. They decided to hit the symbols of American economic might in the World Trade Towers, and the symbol of American military power in the Pentagon. No one knows which American symbol was targeted by the demented hijackers who were aboard the fourth airplane that crashed in Shanksville, but we can be sure it was carefully chosen for maximum psychological effect.

Our national leaders have warned us that there is more terror to come. They prepare the public for a suitcase nuclear detonation or a "dirty" bomb in which massive amounts of conventional explosives violently disperse radioactive material over a wide area.

As U.S. President George W. Bush projects an image of national solidarity, Vice-President Dick Cheney shuttles between secret locations and a special cadre of federal officials is secreted in underground bunkers to ensure continuity of government in the event of calamity.

Anyone who has traveled by air since September 11 is familiar with the stepped-up security at the nation's airports — but even at the unprecedented security levels presently in effect, the airlines are struggling with drastically reduced demand.

What amounts to a world war is being waged against terrorist masterminds, from Afghanistan to Yemen to the Philippines to the Republic of Georgia.

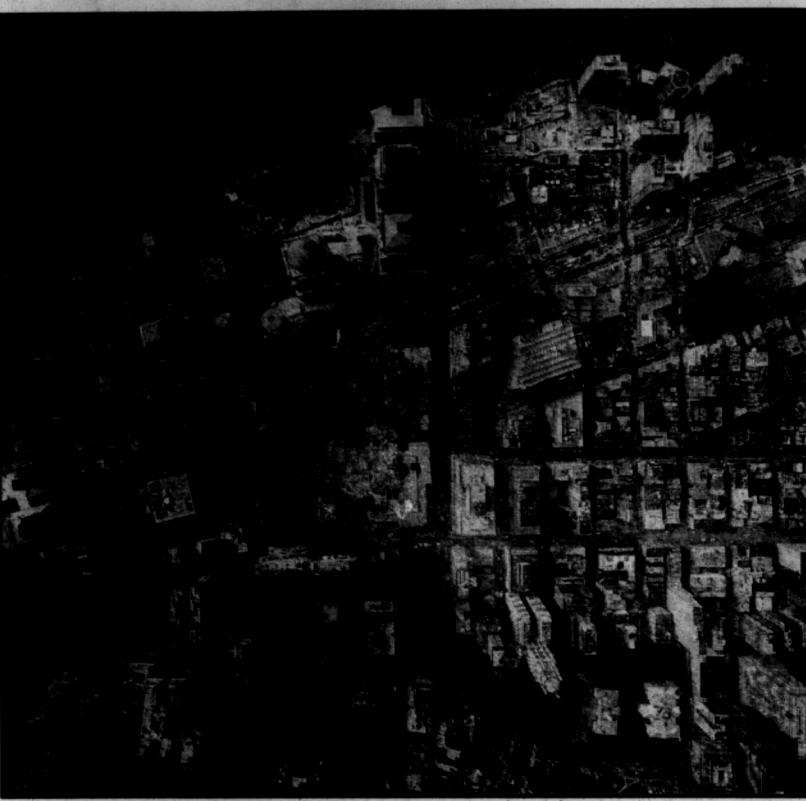
There has been massive loss of life on the enemy side, and American soldiers have begun to die far from home to protect our country from further attacks. We have been warned that there will be more casualties to come — perhaps many more casualties.

There is a general uneasiness around the country, even as the enemy appears to be in full retreat and the U.S. economy shows signs of recovery. When a scaffold high on the side of the John Hancock Building in Chicago broke free over the weekend and rained glass on pedestrians (and resulted in several fatalities), the first thought in the minds of many people was of a terrorist attack on what is now the country's second tallest building.

People keep an wary eye on their surroundings at sporting events and concerts. Parents worry about security at their children's schools. More guards and even metal detectors begin to appear in the lobbies of office buildings and public facilities. Special precautions are taken in mail rooms.

A lot has changed in the six months since September 11 — but there are some things that haven't:

- God is still on his throne. Many people question why God "allowed" September 11 to happen, but we can be assured that this is still his creation. We can also be assured that he has mourned this temporary triumph of evil and all that has come after it.



Aerial view of site where World Trade Towers once stood

- Darkness still pervades our world, and the Prince of Darkness is still roaming the earth seeking whom he can devour. We are reminded by the events of September 11 that evil is not an abstract theological concept, but rather a tangible force at the disposal of Satan himself.

- Jesus is still the Messiah, the Lord and Savior of all who call upon his holy name. Those who know Jesus know peace; those with no Jesus have no peace.

- The world is still in need of the salvation that comes only through Jesus Christ. Our mission (Matt. 28:18-20) has not changed — to bring that lost world to eternal salvation found only in Jesus.

If we truly believe in our chaotic world that God reigns, evil is palpable, Jesus saves, and a lost world awaits our witness, what are we waiting for?

Let's get busy.

This law has helped dramatically reduce alcohol-related deaths on the streets and highways of 28 other states.

As in the story of David and Goliath, many people today stand around frozen by fear or indifference. We have made progress in the last 20 years in how we view drunk driving, but much more needs to be done. We as individuals, as states, and as a nation, need to take a stand against drunk driving by passing stricter laws and then enforcing those laws.

Awareness has become our David-like slingshot. This preventable crime can no longer be ignored. Do not wait until this giant comes into your home before you decide to take a stand.

Remember: *The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*

Berry is the pastor of Galilee Church, Puckett. For more information on MADD, contact the state office at P.O. Box 97845, Pearl, Miss. 39288-7845. Telephone: (601) 939-0233. E-mail: maddmississippi@yahoo.com.

GUEST OPINION:

Don't allow evil to triumph

By Danny Berry, executive director
Mississippi Chapter
Mothers Against Drunk Driving

ber one in the nation in alcohol-related deaths per capita (13.32 deaths per 100,000 residents) — a rather disturbing distinction we would rather not have.

In the year 2000, forty percent of all traffic deaths in Mississippi were caused by alcohol. Most of us face a far greater risk while driving down Main Street than we do from terrorists who threaten our land. *The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.*

It seems we have all been affected either directly or indirectly by an alcohol-related death. Who can forget the triumphant story last month of Jim Shea winning a gold medal in the skeleton racing competi-

tion at the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City? His dream was to share the event with his father and grandfather, both Olympians before him.

A few weeks before the Olympics, however, his grandfather's life was snuffed out at the hands of a drunk driver. This tragedy was one hundred percent preventable and should not have happened.

Our state legislators last week passed Senate Bill 2848, which will help reduce the number of alcohol-related deaths in Mississippi. This bill, once signed by the Governor, will lower the legal limit of blood alcohol content from .10 to .08 for a charge of Driving Under the Influence.

Skater's faith in focus while setting records

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — For Olympian speed skater Jason Hedstrand, the slim gold band he wears on his right hand means more than his newly ordered Olympic ring.

The Olympic ring will be a reminder of the skater's grueling training and the excitement of competing in the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

The other ring — a gold wedding band given to him by his grandfather — is a constant reminder to Hedstrand of his love for God, the support of his family, and of his commitment to remain pure until marriage.

"I wear this one with more pride," said 26-year-old Hedstrand, rubbing the mellowed gold. "It is an outward reminder of my inward commitment."

Hedstrand's time of 13:32.99 earned him a 12th-place finish in the 10,000-meter and set a new American record Feb. 22. In qualifying for the U.S. Olympic team, Hedstrand broke the American record in the 10,000-meter in a time that was more than 45 seconds faster than Eric Heiden's world



A SPECIAL RING — Olympic speed skater Jason Hedstrand holds a gold ring given to him by his grandfather as a reminder of godly living. (BP photo)

record at the 1980 Olympic Winter Games at Lake Placid.

A member of Southeast Church in Sandy, Utah, Hedstrand said it's not the thrill of the Olympics, the lure of the sport, or the pressure to perform that drives him. Instead, right alongside the 100-mile bike rides, 1,000 races,

is. Instead of trying to spend a certain amount of time in study, Hedstrand said he has read a chapter a day since 1993 and began his third trip through Scripture on the day of the Olympics' closing ceremonies, Feb. 24.

In Utah, Hedstrand, son of former missionaries to the Phillipines, said he remembers his father coming into his room every night to read aloud Bible story character sketches. Raised in Baptist General Conference churches, he said he knew God at an early age, but grew closer to him through the influence of a "great" youth pastor when he was in junior high school.

Through church and family contacts Hedstrand was able to

and the "pain and agony" of competition is the slow and steady stroke of God who gives him strength.

"Inwardly I am being renewed day by day by God," said Hedstrand, whose favorite Bible verse is 2 Cor. 4:18: "... So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

"It totally puts everything in perspective and we realize the Olympic status and clothes and media — it is something to train for, but it is also temporary," Hedstrand said. "[That verse] helps me train harder, keeping that perspective, because with the Olympic year coming up a lot of people have taken a more selfish approach to things."

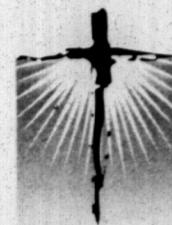
Part of Hedstrand's spiritual discipline is to read the Bible every day, no matter where he

live with a family from Southeast Church in moving from his home in Shoreview, Minn., last spring to tackle intensive training for the Olympic trials.

The first day of the week, however, was reserved for church where Hedstrand spent "literally all Sunday" with friends, including singles and teens.

Hedstrand recently spoke at a True Love Waits banquet at the church, citing "trust, honesty, and commitment" as essentials in a relationship — essentials which are foundational and begin on the first date. He used his parents' and grandparents' long-lasting marriages as models.

Fully committed to remaining sexually pure until marriage, Hedstrand said he also challenges parents to make sure



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FRONT PAGE

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they are affectionate to their children so they will also refrain from early encounters leading to premarital sex.

"If you think that you are loving your child enough, double it," Hedstrand advised.

"Hugs and kisses — I don't care if they are the star football player on the team — if they don't get it from you they will find it someplace else."

Hedstrand knows what he's talking about. Often lonely while away from home, he said he still looks for little touches, like a special note in his lunchbox or a kind word on a bad day.

"Do the cute things," Hedstrand said.

"For me, I don't care if I'm in the bleachers at the Olympic stadium and hugging mom and dad," Hedstrand said. "If the Olympic stadium doesn't want to see it, I don't care — I love my mom and dad and sister."

Looking back

10 years ago

By a margin of almost two-to-one, Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh, N.C., votes to bless the union of two homosexual men. A resolution passed by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee condemns Pullen for condoning the "gross perversion and unquestioned sin" of homosexuality.

20 years ago

Overseas churches related to Southern Baptist Convention mission work baptize 127,337 believers in 1981, surpassing 1980's record of 110,032 baptisms by 15.7% and setting the pace for a decade of increased missions and baptisms.

50 years ago

A writer identifying himself as a member of "the only true church" writes Editor A.L. Goodrich, saying, "I wouldn't subscribe to your old paper if it was the only one on earth but a neighbor gives it to me. He is one of your narrow-minded Baptists. I'll gladly send flowers when you and him have funerals."

LifeWay best sellers

HARDBACK

1. Bringing Up Boys, James Dobson (Tyndale)
2. Traveling Light, Max Lucado (Nelson)
3. Prayer of Jabez, Bruce Wilkinson (Multnomah)
4. Secrets of the Vine, Bruce Wilkinson (Multnomah)
5. Praying God's Word, Beth Moore (Broadman & Holman, LifeWay's trade book division)
6. Night Light, James and Shirley Dobson, Multnomah
7. Heaven: My Father's House, Anne Graham Lotz (Nelson)
8. Spiritual Leadership, Henry & Richard Blackaby (B&H)
9. Finding God in the Lord of the Rings, Kurt Bruner & Jim Ware (Tyndale)
10. The Many Loves of Marriage, Thomas and Nanette Kinkade (Multnomah)

PAPERBACK

1. Power of a Praying Wife, Stormie Omartian (Harvest House)
2. Five Love Languages, Gary Chapman (Moody Press)
3. Power of a Praying Husband, Stormie Omartian (Harvest House)
4. Praying God's Will for Your Life, Stormie Omartian (Nelson)
5. Power of a Praying Parent, Stormie Omartian (Harvest House)
6. Bad Girls of the Bible, Lisa Curtis Higgs (WaterBrook Press)
7. Case for Faith, Lee Strobel (Zondervan)
8. Sacred Romance, John Eldredge (Nelson)
9. Experiencing God (Rev. w/ Study Questions), Blackaby & King (B&H)
10. Humor for a Woman's Heart, various contributors (Howard)

Missionary, editor Henderson dies March 7

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

W. Guy Henderson, 73, a career Southern Baptist missionary and editor emeritus of *The Baptist Record*, died March 7 at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo of complications following emergency heart bypass surgery.

Services were at 2 p.m. March 9 at his home church, Morrison Heights Church in Clinton, with burial immediately following at Lakewood Memorial Cemetery.

Henderson, a Mississippi native and U.S. Navy veteran, and his wife Lois were appointed in 1958 by the Foreign Mission Board — now International Mission Board (IMB) — of the Southern Baptist Convention to serve as missionaries to South Korea. They served 13 years in South Korea before transferring to Manila, Philippines, where he pastored the International Baptist Church for 7 years.

Henderson returned to Mississippi in 1978 and served as a consultant in the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). In 1981, Henderson became MBCB Evangelism Director and held that post until his appointment as editor of *The Baptist Record* in 1990.

He retired as editor in 1996, and was

designated one of two editor emeriti of the weekly news journal of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Don McGregor, who edited the paper immediately prior to Henderson, is the other editor emeritus and currently resides in Mesquite, Texas.

After graduating from Forest High School and serving two years in the U.S. Navy, during which time he surrendered to the Gospel ministry, Henderson graduated from Mississippi College (B.A.) in Clinton and New Orleans Seminary (Th.M.).

Prior to entering missionary service in 1958, Henderson served as pastor of churches in Texas and Mississippi. His Mississippi pastorates included Cash Church, Lena; Fellowship Church, Taylorsville; Society Hill Church, Oak Vale; and Emmanuel Church, Biloxi.

Henderson was also a retired chaplain

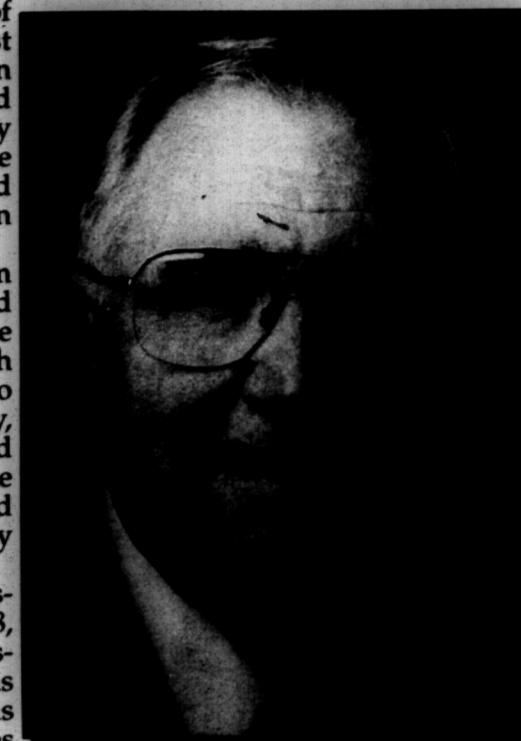
in the U.S. Army Reserves and the author of four books. He also wrote extensively on Christian missions and the Orient.

Henderson is survived by his wife of 53 years, Lois; son Rex Henderson of Webster, Mass.; daughters: Melinda and husband Russell Kyzar, IMB missionaries in Moscow, Russia; Patricia and husband Joseph Pardue of Terry; Angela and husband Jeff McWhorter of Tupelo; eight grandchildren; three brothers; and four sisters.

Memorials may be made to the Guy Henderson Volunteer Missions Scholarship Fund through Morrison Heights Church,

200

Morrison Drive, Clinton, MS 39056; or to the Baptist Children's Village, P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060.



Henderson

Reccord is new 'Baptist Hour' host

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — FamilyNet, the broadcast communications subsidiary of the North American Mission Board (NAMB), has announced that NAMB President Robert E. Reccord will serve as host of *The Baptist Hour* radio program beginning Palm Sunday, March 24. The program's preacher since 1977 has been Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church of Jackson, who has retired from the pastorate and is currently serving as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

A new host for the television version of *The Baptist Hour*, which also is losing Pollard to retirement, has not yet been selected.

The *Baptist Hour*, first broadcast in 1941, has featured such pulpit giants as M.E. Dodd, George W. Truett, W.A. Criswell, and J.D. Grey. The syndicated program airs 408 times weekly in the United States and in nine foreign outlets.

Based in Fort Worth, Texas, FamilyNet produces five radio programs, Powerline, Country Crossroads, On Track, The Baptist Hour, and MasterControl, airing on more than 2,200 radio stations with a weekly audience of over 3.9 million listeners. For more information or to audition the programs visit www.FamilyNetRadio.com or call (800) 832-6638.

A GREAT GUY

The first guy named "Guy" that I ever knew was my uncle. His name was Guy Futral. As a little kid, I thought his name was "Uncle Guy."

Of course, I knew my Dad and my brother, but at the time I did not know that each of them also had the name of "Guy." I thought that my father was named Daddy and my older brother who was Guy Jr. had a nickname.

While I was still just a small kid, preschooler, somewhere between four and five years old, I met another guy named "Guy."

My family had moved to Clinton where my Dad would start to Mississippi College preparing his life for ministry. There in the apartment setting where we moved was a couple named Guy and Lois Henderson.

Although I had not started to school and could not read or write, I was able to discern good folks around me. Then, and to this very day, the



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Hendersons were not only good but wonderful folks in my life.

In ways that only God could arrange, our lives crisscrossed each other throughout the years. When I came to be pastor at Broadmoor Church in 1985, I followed the interim pastorate of Guy Henderson.

In the years after that, he was a leader, a friend, and an encourager. The last Sunday he preached, he was filling the pulpit at Broadmoor.

The day before he would have his heart surgery I had the privilege of visiting, laughing, and praying with him. He was a "great Guy!"

He was unchanging. One of the things that made Guy who

he was for the Lord was the fact that he was unchanging.

He was always who he was — genuine and gently, firm yet flexible. He started out early in life walking with the Lord and just kept on walking with him all of these years.

His faith was solidly anchored in Jesus Christ and flowed out of his life day after day in beautiful and practical ways that touched people all around him.

From start to finish he never changed about the essentials of life.

He was always changing. This is not a contradiction to the fact that he was unchanging but I am referring to the fact that he was always growing and extending his life, gifts, and influence wherever the Lord might use him.

Life is a fluid experience and it calls for us to constantly move forward, adjust, and be our best. Guy Henderson was that.

In a multiplicity of ways he was constantly being what the Lord wanted him to be in new and exciting ventures — a husband, a father, a pastor, a missionary, a grandfather, director of the Stewardship Department, head of the Evangelism Department for Mississippi Baptists, and editor of *The Baptist Record*.

He filled each role with skill, heart, and a great spirit. Once

he reached retirement age, the transition was just to keep on serving. That is what he did — supply preaching, interims, special events, and revivals.

He was ready to serve whenever and however he could. He was always poised for the next challenge.

He is now changed. It is true that Guy Henderson was unchanging, always changing but now it can be said that he has been changed forever.

To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord, but there is a glorious forever changing that we as believers will experience.

Here just before we celebrate Easter, listen to what Guy Henderson knew would be his:

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, the last trump shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. This corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal put on immortality (1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

Jesus Christ faced death for each of us and certainly for Guy. Jesus conquered death for every believer and offers to us a change to a new, everlasting, and glorious life with him.

They said that Guy Henderson had heart trouble but that is only referring to his physical heart.

His real heart, the essence of who he was, was not troubled at all. It was strong, large, and anchored to our wonderful Christ.

He stood strong and tall with a smile on his face and joy in his heart for the Christ who gave everything for him.

Of this guy, it can be said he was a "great Guy!"

Former Miss. pastor resigns Fla. church

BRANDON, Fla. (BP) — A prominent Florida pastor, Ken Alford, announced his resignation Sunday, Feb. 24. According to a Feb. 25 news release from Bell Shoals Church, Alford cited "the need to work on the restoring of his marriage as his reason for leaving the church. His decision is final and immediate."

Alford, former pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, was at the time of his resignation the trustee chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board and a member of the Florida Baptist Convention's state board of missions. He also was the 1999-2000 president of the Florida convention.

According to the Tampa Tribune, Alford was accompanied by his wife, Cynthia, as he acknowledged marital problems that had led to an "improper relationship." The St. Petersburg Times, meanwhile, reported that Alford told each of the church's four Sunday worship services that he was resigning after marital problems and a "one-time moral indiscretion."

The St. Petersburg newspaper quoted Ed Shaw, chairman of the church's personnel committee, as saying that the indiscretion was of a "high enough order" that Alford felt it necessary to resign.

Shaw declined to be specific about Alford's marital indiscretion, and Alford did not return calls to either newspaper for comment. Alford and his wife have a daughter, 14, and son, 10.

Gifts, listening ear boost ground zero officers |

NEW YORK CITY (BP) — The gruesome task of recovering bodies from the site of the World Trade Center attack has largely disappeared from the evening news, but it remains a stressful reality for about 200 Port Authority Police Department officers putting in 12-hour shifts six days a week.

Those men — and particularly their wives — were the focus of a ministry effort by nine Southern Baptist women Feb. 19. Gift bags of lotions, chocolates, and other personal items were given to the men to deliver to their wives as an effort to thank them for the heroic role they have played in helping keep families functioning.

The women also hosted a catered meal of Italian food at the Port Authority's ground zero headquarters — the first hot meal some of the men had eaten in many days.

Cheryl Reccord, wife of North American Mission Board (NAMB) President Robert E. Reccord and one of the coordinators of the project, said her message to the officers was that they had helped America redefine its image of a hero from athletes and rock stars to police officers and firefighters.

"We know there is another group of heroes, and that is your wives and families who are picking up the pieces so you can do what you do," she told the men. "... It was just letting them know that we care about who they are."

The project was part of "Enduring Hope," the ongoing Southern Baptist relief effort for those affected by the Sept. 11 tragedy. Participants included NAMB employees, employee wives, and several volunteers and missionaries from the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association.

The idea grew out of a conversation in early January between Reccord and the officer in charge at the site for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owned the World Trade Center complex and remains responsible for overseeing the recovery effort.

Reccord learned many families have been stressed by the grief and emotionally taxing work of sifting through the rubble, so he began asking how Southern Baptists could help.

The gifts included body lotion, bubble bath, and candles from Victoria's Secret, Godiva chocolates, and a grief recovery journal.

The Reccords also donated copies of "Freedom from Fear," a Bible study written by Cheryl Reccord and Linda Ebert, and Robert Reccord's recent book, "Beneath the Surface," which deals with avoiding the pitfalls that can destroy marriages.

LifeWay Christian Resources contributed a compact disc containing instrumental Christian music.

"Several of the men when we were there mentioned the stress

and strain, and the fact that they haven't seen their kids, and have missed their ball-games and such," Cheryl Reccord said.

Their shifts have grown from eight to 12 hours, she said, and commute times are often an hour and a half to two hours each way, leaving little time for caring for their families.

"We were just struck with their tremendous appreciation, and the way that they began to open up with some of their own stories of what they were going through and what they've seen," she said.

Stephanie Lyon, a NAMB administrative secretary, found the men remarkably ready to talk about spiritual matters. "I would say the concepts of death and eternity are extremely tangible up there," she said.

The effort is just the start of what leaders in New York hope will be a continuing crisis intervention ministry to the Port Authority police led by Joe Williams, a chaplaincy specialist working fulltime with the Enduring Hope relief effort.



The dinner and gift bags for the officers' wives "opened the door of ministry to those people," said Williams, who served in a similar role after the Oklahoma City bombing.

"Those guys just came in and mingled with them, and they really opened up."

"When Cheryl and these other ladies said, 'We have been praying for you and we will be praying for you,' these people really responded to that," he said.

GROUND ZERO OUTREACH — Cheryl Reccord (right), wife of North American Mission Board President Robert E. Reccord, talks with a Port Authority police officer during a meal hosted for the men. (BP photo)

Students focus on missions 'feet' at Golden Gate

SAN FRANCISCO (BP) — There was a great deal of talk about feet recently at Golden Gate Seminary. There were dozens of pairs of shoes strewn across the platform of the chapel and scattered on the tables of a coffeehouse. There were images on screen of all kinds of feet: bare feet splashing into a lake, sandaled feet crossed in rest or standing next to each other in weariness, muscled feet climbing over rocks.

It was "Those Kind of Feet," the 2002 world missions conference at Golden Gate Seminary, during which 200 university students from across the western United States learned about and prayed for the kind of feet Isaiah wrote about: "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news."

The conference, at the seminary's San Francisco Campus in Mill Valley, Calif., helped students gain a broader perspective of global missions.

International missionary Steve James, who ministers among people groups in Great Britain and Ireland, cited the New Testament passage in John 13 about Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

"Who was in the room when Jesus washed all those feet?" he asked the students at the Friday evening session. "Judas, right? Here's a question for us to think about: Do we, when we go out to wash feet, choose whose feet we wash? No. We don't. God does. God chooses whose feet we wash — our task is just to wash the feet of whomever God puts in front of us."

That task, James insisted, is one believers must do immediately. "The next step in having 'those kind of feet' is obedience to whatever God has asked you to do conference in February. (BP Photo by Daniel Phifer)

right now, at this moment. If you're interested in missions, you had better be doing it now, because it is not going to get easier when you're 'over there.' You have to be obedient in the here and now first."

James' call to immediate response was echoed in the testimony of Marie Kennedy, a Golden Gate music student who served on a mission trip last summer to Kenya.



VIEW OF CALVARY — Golden Gate Seminary student and artist David Robinson puts finishing touches on an image of Jesus' crucifixion he painted during a time of worship at the seminary's annual missions conference in February. (BP Photo by Daniel Phifer)

"We have trouble trusting God. I know I do, anyway," she said at the Saturday evening session. "Last year, I just wanted, so badly, for God to just come out and tell me what he wanted to do with my life, not keep me in the dark any longer, and what I learned in Kenya was that God just wanted me to trust him with a little bit — just a little bit — and he could take me miles with that. Now my husband and I are hoping to serve fulltime in Kenya!"

"Trust him with just two weeks, or one summer, or next month," she encouraged the students. "It's hard to lay down your whole life at once when you don't know what that means. That's a big step. Start small. Trust him with a mustard seed's worth, and he will do so much with that you won't believe your eyes."

Brandon Nichols, one of 12 students who came from Boise State, Idaho, took Kennedy's words to heart. "This conference has been really, really good. For one thing, the corporate worship with other college students has been really refreshing. Also, I think my questions have changed. I graduate in just a few months, so I came here with lots of questions like, 'What am I going to do with the rest of my life?' Now I'm asking questions like, 'Well, what would God like me to do with this summer, first?'"

James encouraged the students to make sure it was Jesus' voice they were following as they pursued missions.

"The needs are so, so great, and you can be driven by the need, but you won't last. Whose voice are you listening to?" he asked.

Butler tapped for Ex. Comm. funding study

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven, and a member of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee, will serve on a nine-member SBC Funding Study Committee charged with analyzing and evaluating SBC funding issues.

The recommendation for the committee grew out of discussions regarding funding challenges facing SBC seminaries and other SBC entities. The committee is expected to hold its first meeting shortly to establish parameters and procedures for its work. The committee will bring its initial report to the Executive Committee in its Sept. 16-17 meeting in Nashville.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Women on Mission of Steele Church, Scott Association

Marjorie (Rowden) Kelly dies

Marjorie Cole (Rowden) Kelly, 77, died Feb. 28 at Manhattan Health Center in Jackson. A memorial service was held at First Church, Jackson, with burial in Atlanta, Ga. She and her husband, Paul Rowden, were appointed missionaries to Israel from 1951-1957. Paul Rowden died of cancer in 1958. In 1979, she married Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson. Following Kelly's retirement, they served on the faculty at the Baptist Seminary in the Philippines for two years.

A graduate of New Orleans Seminary, she worked from 1962-1979 at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, as an associate professor of religion and later as vice president of college relations.

Survivors include: husband, Earl Kelly of Jackson; daughters, Rebecca Rowden of Savannah, Ga., Robin Rowden Riggs of Watkinsville, Ga., and Paige Rowden Levy of Brentwood, Tenn.; five grandsons; and one granddaughter. Richard Wayne Rowden, son, preceded her in death.

Memorials may be made to the Marjorie Rowden Kelly Scholarship Fund, Mississippi Baptist Foundation, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



RAs of Steele Church, Scott Association.

Crossgates Church, Brandon, will host Jack Price in the morning services and a concert at 6 p.m. on March 24. For additional information, call the church at (601) 825-2562.

MID-SIZED CHURCH seeking part-time minister of music at Steep Hollow Baptist Church, Poplarville, Miss. Two Sunday morning services plus Wednesday night services. Please call (601) 795-4638 or fax resume to (601) 795-4696.

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CHURCH IN BRANDON seeking director for week day early childhood education program for 3-year through Kindergarten. Must have degree in early childhood education or be a licensed childcare director. Fax resume and salary requirement to Director of Preschool Ministry at (601) 825-2559.

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GAs of Walthall Church, Webster Association

Paid In Full will present a concert at First Church, Batesville, March 24 at 7 p.m.



The RAs of First Church, Pontotoc



GAs and leaders of Walthall Church, Webster Association

Men's breakfast/time management seminar will be held at Crossgates Church, Brandon, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information, call the church office at (601) 825-2562.

The RAs of First Church, Pontotoc, recently participated in RA Racer Day. About 40 lads and crusaders participated in the day. Ken Hester is pastor.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROSETT, ARK. is seeking a full-time children's minister. Resumes may be sent to 701 Main Street, Crossett, AR 71635.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Note burning ceremony at Paynes Church, North Central Assn.

Paynes Church, North Central Association, recently held a note burning for land purchased joining the church property. Pictured (from left) are Janet Roberts, church clerk; Thad Roberts, Jamie Shook, Cary Worsham, and Edward Shook, deacons; Tommy Tanner, pastor; Byron Burns, Dan Shook, and Randy Staten, deacons.

Salem Church, Collins, celebrated Kathryn Belle Rogers Speed day on Feb. 3. Pictured (from left) are Terrell Tisdale, former president of Jones Junior College; Bettye Coward,

president of Blue Mountain College, keynote speaker; Speed; and Martha Tisdale, organist at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg.

Parkway Church, Hernando, recently honored Becky Nance, the new children's director, with a reception in the Christian Education and Recreation Center.



Nance



T. Tisdale, Coward, Speed, and M. Tisdale

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Baby dedication services at Crenshaw Church, Crenshaw



RAs of First Church, Pontotoc

The adult choirs of Bethel Church, Brandon, and Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, have joined together to present the Easter musical, Saved in the Cross. They will present the musical at Pelahatchie Church, March 17 at 7 p.m.; and at Bethel Church, March 24 at 6 p.m. Bert Stanton is music director at Bethel Church and Chris Nash is music director at Pelahatchie Church.

The Last Supper will be held at Crossgates Church, Brandon, on Good Friday, March 29, at 6 p.m. "This special meal, remembering his final moments with his disciples, is sponsored by the Crossgates Ladies Ministry," said Amy Lancaster, director of communications. Services on Easter Sunday will be held at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m. Call the church office at (601) 825-2562 for additional information.

A reception honoring John Ed Snell, pastor for 27 years, upon his retirement from Utica Church, Utica, will be held March 17 from 2-4 p.m. For additional information, call the church at (601) 885-8806.

Zion Hill Church, Wesson, will sponsor The Crabb Family in concert at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson, July 20 at 7 p.m. For tickets or additional information, contact the church at (601) 643-5145.

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, will celebrate the completion of a new multi-purpose building on March 24. Sunday School will be held in the new building at 10 a.m. Paid In Full will present a concert during the morning worship service. Lunch will be served. Kara Blackard is pastor.

Easter Week will begin on Sunday, March 24, at Fernwood Church, Gulfport, with the choral presentation of Lamb of God at 6 p.m. Dinner on Thursday, followed by The Lord's Supper at 6 p.m. Service on Good Friday at 7 p.m. Easter Resurrection Service, Sunday, March 31, at 11 a.m. and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.



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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Nations, Myers, and the Barretts

Johnny Barrett was ordained as a deacon at Dublin Church, Covington/Jeff Davis Association on Feb. 17. Pictured (from left) are Pat Nations, pastor; Tommy Myers, chairman of deacons; and Barrett and his wife Hilda.

Oakland Heights Church, Meridian, recently licensed Chris Massey (left) to the gospel ministry. Pictured with Massey is Mike Russell, pastor.

Oak Forest Church, Jackson, licensed Jonathan Blair to the ministry on Aug. 19. Blair is currently a student at Union University, Jackson, Tenn. Pictured (from left) are Gary Blair, father of Jonathan Blair and pastor of Oak Forest Church; Jonathan Blair; Harry Scarborough, deacon, chairman; and Jerry Talley, associate pastor and minister of music.



Massey and Russell

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The Mississippi College Forensics Team won two categories of debate at the Bicker Debates on the campus of the University of Louisiana-Monroe, Feb. 22-24. Courtney Everitt and Josh Kyle won the Novice Parliamentary Debate Tournament. They finished the preliminary rounds with a 5-1 record before sweeping through the elimination rounds. Kyle also finished 5th in the Top Speaker competition. Lauren Lee won the Novice Public Debate Tournament. She qualified for the elimination rounds by going 4-2 in the preliminaries. Coleman Presnell also competed in Novice Public Debate,

going 3-3 in preliminaries and finishing four speaker points away from qualifying for the elimination rounds. The members who attended were Everitt from Eagle River, Ark.; Kyle from Clinton; Lee from Clinton; and Presnell from Brookhaven.

Auditions for performers and interviews for staff for the 28th season of Carey Dinner Theatre will be held March 23 beginning at 10 a.m. in the O. L. Quave Theatre on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College. The only requirement for auditioning or applying for a staff position is high school graduation or its equivalent by May 28,

2002, the date rehearsals begin. Each member of the company, performers, and staff, is paid. Staff positions to be filled include house-box office manager, office assistant, publicity assistant, costume assistant, and technical (set, lighting, costume) assistants. Applicants should be prepared to present a resume or portfolio at the time of the interview. Carey Dinner Theatre presents two musical productions in June and July. For additional information write to Carey Dinner Theatre, William Carey College, 498 Tuscan Ave. WCC Box 17, Hattiesburg, MS 39401, telephone (601) 318-6218, or email thecom@wmcarey.edu.



G. Blair, J. Blair, Scarborough, and Talley

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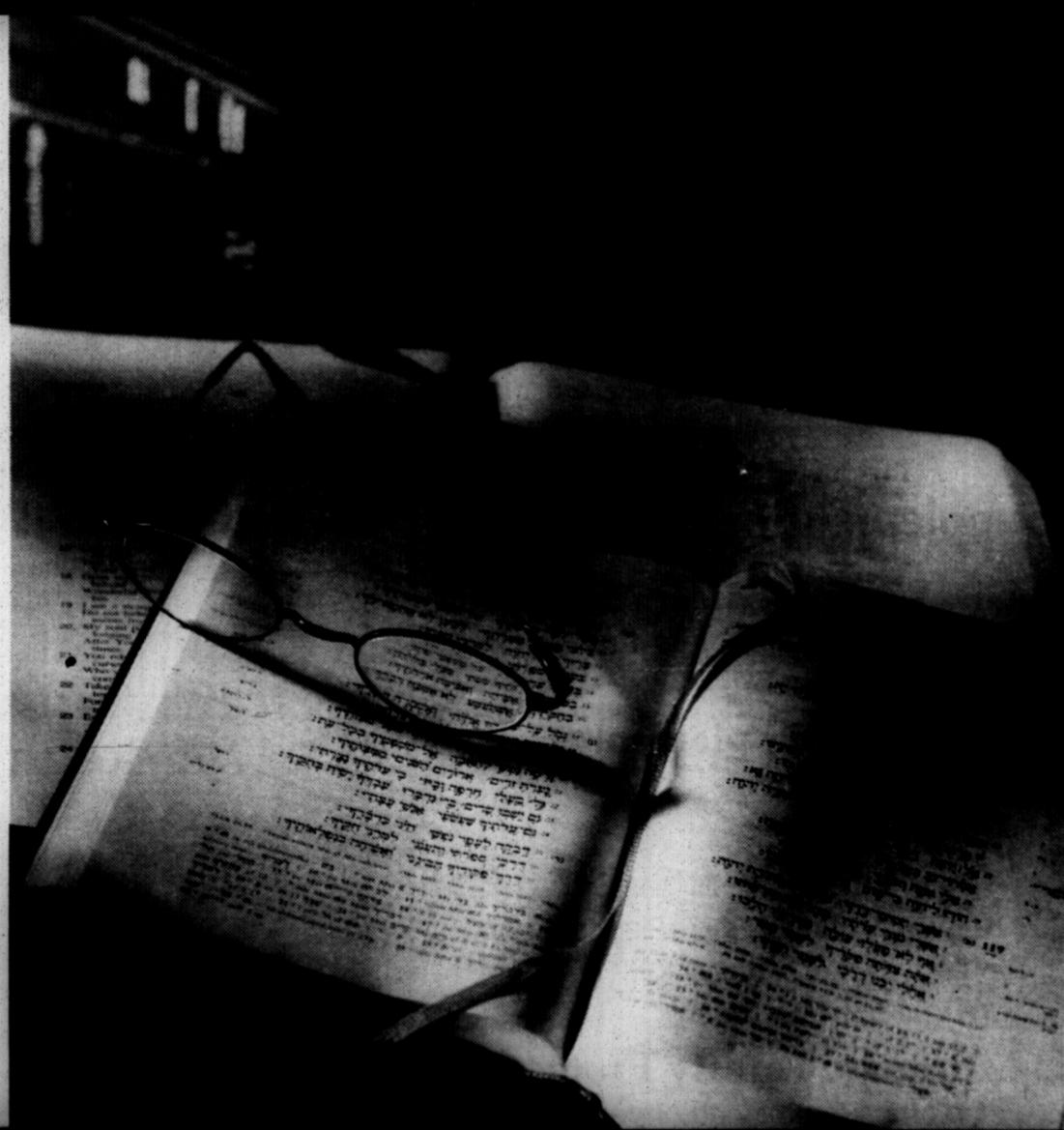


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NO TAX DOLLARS

Editor:

Mississippi Baptists have an opportunity to influence legislation aimed at banning the use of Mississippi tax dollars for abortions.

House Bill 1480 (No Mississippi Tax Dollars for Abortion) passed a Senate committee and is ready to be voted on by the entire Senate.

In its present form (as of March 7), the bill is acceptable to pro-lifers because it allows exceptions to the ban only in

cases of rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother.

There has, however, been a move by legislators to add an exception that would allow tax dollars to pay for abortions when the baby has "a potential risk of malformation."

This amendment is not acceptable because it is far too broad and opens the door to abortions for reasons ranging from a club hand (testimony had been submitted of babies aborted at University Medical Center for this reason) to Down's Syndrome.

We ask for Christians to get involved in the efforts to pass House Bill 1480 with no amendments.

There are several legislators who are key to this effort because they are in positions of leadership. They are Tim Ford, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Bobby Moody, chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee in the House.

These men, as well as your own senator and representative, need polite telephone calls and letters to encourage them

to stand strong for life as they deal with House Bill 1480.

Pat Cartrette, president
Right to Life of Jackson
Jackson

Editor's note: The address for the Legislature while in session is P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215. For telephone number, see letter below.

REVIVAL DATES

Corinth (Jasper): March 20-24; Wed.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., Bible Conference, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Richard Gavin, music; Mike Powell, pastor.

Belden, Belden: March 24-27; Danny Lanier, evangelist; Don Baggett, pastor.

Lakeshore Church, Jackson: March 24-27; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rick Hinson, evangelist; Les Fox, music; Joe Crout, pastor.

East Fork (Amite): March 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy DeWitt, evangelist; Steve Bishop, music; Paul G. Cain, pastor.

Coat (Simpson): April 14-19; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Clark Stewart, Crystal Springs, evangelist; Gary Grayson, music; William McWilliams, interim pastor.

Siloam, West Point: March 17-21; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Gary Permenter, Columbus, evangelist; Scott Griffin, pastor, Enon Church, Clay County, evangelist; Walter Simmons, pastor.

Rock Hill (Rankin): March 17-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Tim Canterbury, pastor.

First, Aberdeen: March 17-20; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon meal and 6:30 p.m.; Hal Clark, Water Valley, evangelist; Slater Murphy, Columbus, worship leader.

Oak Grove, Mendenhall: March 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed with dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Matt Buckles, evangelist; Steve Walker, music; Gary Lawson, pastor.

Sidon, Sidon: March 31-April 3; 7 p.m.; Truman Scarborough, evangelist; Raymond McKinion, minister of music; Ray Maddox, pianist.

SEARCH AND DESTROY

Editor:

We should be very concerned about what is taking place at state-funded facilities like University Medical Center (UMC) in Jackson — the primary late term abortion facility in Mississippi.

Their policy says they "only" abort up to 24 weeks! The abortion clinics are limited to 16 weeks, but if UMC can find a potential risk of fetal malformations they will perform an abortion on an unborn child that is six months gestation.

That is a fully-formed human created in the image of God, whether it is a perfect child or not.

We do not want our tax dollars funding an abortion facility right under our noses and justifying it by saying they do research and genetic testing, and feel they must be able to abort to continue their programs.

What programs? If a program is for the purpose of search and destroy, instead of search and rescue, then the program sounds something like Hitler would have instituted.

We must stand up for the least of these our brethren, for as much as we do to them we are doing it unto Jesus and we are providing for this to continue unless we can help pass House Bill 1480 this session.

You must act quickly or it will be too late! Call today (601) 359-3770 and leave a message for your senator and representative to concur on House Bill 1480 with only rape, incest, and saving the life of the mother as exceptions.

Don't forget to leave your name and telephone number.
Terri Herring
Jackson



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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Former wrestler finds God, plants churches

CHICO, Calif. (BP) — Church planting missionary Bill Breunle followed a nontraditional path to ministry, having been radically transformed by God from a life of bodybuilding and professional wrestling

bright lights. A year after he opened a chain of health spas, he was arrested for conspiracy to smuggle steroids. He served two years of a three-year sentence, but soon after his release was arrested again on what were later proven to be trumped-up charges.

During the seven pre-trial months he spent in the Los Angeles Detention Center, Breunle finally made his peace with God.

"I remember standing in the chow line facing 40 years," Breunle said about his potential prison sentence. "I remember God speaking to my heart: You can choose the Aryans, you can choose the Brotherhood [prison gangs who wanted him to join with them] or you can choose me." I got out of that chow line — and for me that was a miracle in itself! — and went to my room and prayed like I had never prayed before.

"God rescued me that day," Breunle continued. "He saved me. I finally had the peace and joy I'd talked about all over the world. In the middle of the complete darkness of that jail — and I was living in hell — I was consumed by God's complete love."

Out of 140 inmates on his floor, Breunle led 27 to a life-changing relationship with Christ within the next two months.

"It was unreal," Breunle said. "Guys of the most horrid crimes, guys tattooed from knuckle to neck, we became this community of love."

The miracles continued. In the midst of his trial, the prosecutor stopped the proceedings and apologized to Breunle for his arrest. He was free to go.

Breunle became a youth minister while a student at California Baptist University. Thoughts of a career in law or psychology faded when three churches flourished that he started nearly simultaneously in Riverside — Downtown Christian Fellowship, Family Bible Fellowship (a ministry to hurting families who would not be drawn to a typical church setting) and Set Free of Southern California (a ministry to hard-core bikers). All three congregations, despite their names, were solidly Southern Baptist, Breunle said.

In 1999, Breunle was appointed a missionary with the North American Mission Board and the California Southern Baptist Convention and was assigned as church starter strategist in northern California, from Modesto to the Oregon border. Modesto is about 100 miles south of Sacramento.

The Breunle family lived in the small town of Paradise for two years, then bought their first home, a fixer-upper, in the bustling nearby college town of Chico, about one and a half hours north of Sacramento.

Breunle led Annette, his wife, to the Lord when they were in the visiting room at the Los Angeles Detention Center.

"My job is to support Bill in whatever he does," she said. "I don't play the piano. I don't sing. I don't lead any groups. I don't speak in front of people. I don't even pray out loud. I am totally able to be myself because Bill has set it up that way. And people respect that. We're best friends! His strengths are my weaknesses, and vice versa. Together we're a team."

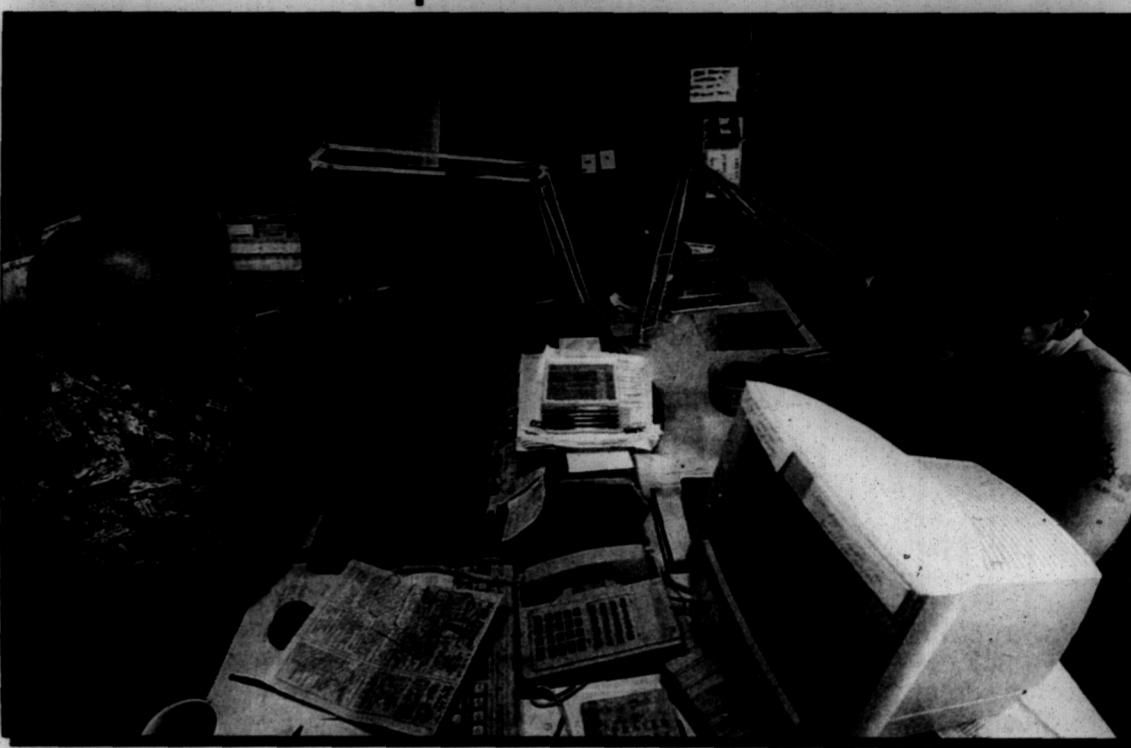
In less than a month after the family's move to Chico, Breunle accepted an additional work assignment: Breunle was called as pastor by about 40 mostly elderly members of Esplanade Church.

"I told them upfront that there would be many, many changes, but if they didn't make them their church would die," Breunle said. "They didn't want the church to die."

His hope is that the renamed Church on the Esplanade will become a Southern Baptist model for a church transitioning from a traditional to a postmodern mindset, one that emphasizes giving the good news of Jesus rather than offering a specific church culture.

In a postmodern church, Breunle said, "The pastor serves the community. He facilitates their giftedness, cultural propensities, and ethnicities. He leads by supporting what God created them to be. Conformity is seen as antithetical to community."

"The question we ask at this church," Breunle said, "is, 'What does love look like?' Love looks like giving them a safe authentic community to let the life of Christ emerge in their context. Celebrating the beautiful diamond of diversity God has created to reflect himself. As long as we're being biblical in keeping the core of the Gospel, we're right on track."



RADIO OUTREACH — Church planter Bill Breunle (right) carries his ministry to the morning show on Christian radio station Y105. Randy Zachary, host of "The Big Show," is the station's general manager. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazeur)

to one of church building and spiritual warfare — but he has brought with him a personal drive to excel that continues to bear fruit in northern California.

Since Christ changed his life in a jail cell about 12 years ago he has helped birth 38 new congregations and is currently transforming a dying traditional church into a vibrant postmodern one. He considers his most important non-family responsibility to be mentoring young ministry leaders. Meanwhile, he's renovating his family's home and studying for his second doctorate.

"Doing my best is important to me. It's like worship to the Lord," said Breunle.

Adopted by a dedicated Southern Baptist family when he was an infant, Breunle took up bodybuilding at age 18. He found he had a natural ability for the sport, and with the abuse of steroids Breunle soon was able to bench press 685 pounds.

That led to a two-year stint as a WWF wrestler, before the emptiness of fame and the joy of marriage cooled his ardor for the

Card in concert at FBC, Natchez

Michael Card will be in concert at First Church, Natchez, on March 17 at 5 p.m. Card has recorded 21 albums and authored 12 books. He has won five Dove Awards and has recorded numerous number one hits.

Tickets are available through the church at a cost of \$10 each. This concert will be Card's only appearance in Mississippi in 2002. Church groups are welcome and a nursery will be provided. For information, call (601) 442-1464.

BGCT starts fund for missionaries leaving over BF&M

DALLAS (BP) — Offering what Executive Director Charles Wade called "open arms" of welcome, the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) executive board voted Feb. 26 to create a "special missionary transition fund" to assist any missionary who voluntarily leaves or is dismissed by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) International Mission Board (IMB) for refusing to affirm the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message statement of beliefs.

Only one dissenting vote on the recommendation from the BGCT's Missions Review and Initiatives Committee (MRIC) was observed among the 220 board members meeting in Baylor Medical Center's Beasley Auditorium. No one was invited to speak on behalf of IMB at the meeting.

Immediately following the vote, Herbert Reynolds, former president of Baylor

University, read an open declaration of concerns signed by 18 pastors and laypersons, and board chairman Brian Harbour announced that those 18 individuals had pledged more than \$1 million to the new missionary transition fund.

The BGCT executive board, according to the MRIC recommendation, will instruct its administrative committee to "establish a way for Texas Baptists to contribute to that fund; that the BGCT Executive Board staff actively seek churches and institutions that will assist in caring for these missionaries; that the BGCT work with other Baptist groups who share this concern; and that the Executive Board instruct the Missions Review and Initiatives Committee to explore positive and pro-active ways in which the churches and institutions of the BGCT can encourage and assist these

missionaries to express their God-given mission calling and that the committee report back by September 2002."

In late January, IMB President Jerry Rankin sent a letter to more than 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries asking them to sign an affirmation of the 2000 BF&M identical to the one they signed for the 1963 BF&M when they were appointed. A missionary who notes a disagreement with the BF&M can, according to the form, still promise to carry out his or her ministry "in accordance with and not contrary to" the BF&M.

His desire, Rankin told the missionaries, was to help Southern Baptists get beyond debate over the 2000 BF&M so they could focus their full attention and best energies on their missions challenges.

Various BGCT leaders among those opposed to the

SBC's leadership accused Rankin of launching an "attack" on missionaries and forcing them to conform to a "manmade creed."

"We regret that these activists have chosen to misrepresent what is happening between Southern Baptist missionaries and their leadership," said Larry Cox, IMB vice president for mobilization. "They are manufacturing a crisis where none exists."

"For decades, Southern Baptist missionaries have been signing affirmations of the statement of faith adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention," Cox said.

"Asking missionaries to compare their personal beliefs to the Baptist Faith and Message is not a departure from historic Southern Baptist practice. It certainly does not amount to imposing a creed on any missionary," Cox said.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Receiving the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-18; 15:26-16:16

By Sandra Gunn

A lifetime gift! This is what Jesus has bequeathed to us, his inheritors. We are recipients of the great gift, second only to salvation, of the Spirit of a holy God living within us.

Jesus knows that the test of love is obedience. He also knows that we are such sinful creatures and aren't really capable of being obedient on our own. He tells us that if we love him, we will obey him. In the very next breath he says the Father will give us another friend — a lifetime gift.

This paraclete has been described in many ways — advocate, helper, comforter, the Spirit of truth, to name a few. Jesus took on the role of com-



Gunn

forter when he promised he would not leave the disciples as orphans. What a promise! This promise can and should mean the same thing for us today.

Our gift, the Holy Spirit, bears witness of Jesus, and confirms everything about him. He brings to our minds and hearts everything Jesus has said. He always points to Jesus. When we are tempted, he will bring to mind a saying of Jesus, remind us of a sermon heard, or nudge us to remember when God worked in our lives in the past.

Jesus teaches his disciples that they "will bear witness also, because you have been with me from the beginning" (John 15:27). They could only

bear witness to what they heard and saw while traveling around with Jesus those three years. We can only bear witness to what work Jesus has done in our lives today — to simply tell what Jesus has done for us.

Jesus begins to tell them again that he is going away, and furthermore, that his going will be to their advantage. He gently explained that if he did not go, the Spirit could not come.

Since the Spirit could abide (make his home) in them, and Jesus couldn't in bodily form, then it would be better for them that he leave! Being loyal but weak, the disciples were thinking of themselves more than Jesus.

He might have said, "I know you don't want to believe this, but I am telling you the truth." From our viewpoint of looking back it could be that had Jesus stayed on earth, his disciples

would have depended on him to do the ministry, and remained followers.

As it was, we can see that through the leadership of the Spirit, they were able to be bold, to preach great sermons as Peter did, to witness to what they had seen Jesus do, and to travel places one man could not.

Jesus, here, gives us another role of the Spirit's work — he is one who convicts. He will convict the world of sin. In today's world, we have seen persons who have denied belief in Christ for many years. All of a sudden, one day the Spirit convicts them and they are able to see the sin in their lives and then they acknowledge Jesus as Savior.

Next, the Spirit will convict the world of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Through this righteousness, the evil of this world has been judged. All of this is a witness to Jesus: the sin of unbelief in our lives, the righteousness only of Jesus, and the judge-

ment that came about when Jesus died on the cross.

Sometimes we come to a point in our lives when we just can't absorb anything else in our finite minds. Jesus obviously knew the disciples needed some pondering time! The promise of the Spirit was that he would reveal other truths to them as they were doing the work of Jesus.

God will reveal only as much as we can understand. He is still revealing his truth to men. The Spirit of truth will teach and guide us into truth from the Father.

The nearer we live to Jesus, the better we will know him. The better we know him, the more we will love him. The more we love him, the more we will trust him.

The end result will be that the Spirit will be able to reveal more and more to us, and help us to understand today's world from God's perspective.

Gunn is a member of First Church, Biloxi.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Give evidence of your salvation

Ephesians 2:1-10

By Robin Brumfield

Here we are again digging into God's Word. This lesson is about what God expects from those who receive the new life he offers by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The lesson emphasizes that God expects believers to show that they have received the new life in Jesus Christ.

Since they have received this new life, they are challenged to give evidence of this decision. This leads to a question — why does God deliver believers from sin and give them new life by grace through faith in Jesus Christ? Because he expects them to give evidence of their salvation by how they live. This will be discussed further in today's study.



Brumfield

There is a struggle that some believers have after accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. When they examine their lives, they know that they should find evidence that they have received salvation, but some believers are surprised by how little evidence they find.

While other believers seemingly are unconcerned about such details, God wants his people to show evidence they have received salvation through Jesus Christ. A change occurs in believer's lives by serving him and allowing the Holy Spirit to change their attitudes and desires to conform to the Bible's teaching.

Today's lesson is divided into three parts. The first

occurs in Ephesians 2:1-3 and deals with being alive, but dead. In this passage, the NIV presents a more literal translation of verse one than that of the KJV. The Greek words for "hath he quickened" (v. 1, KJV) are not found in the Greek text, therefore the KJV translators acknowledged this by using italics.

These words are more likely supplied for the sake of clarity, probably making reference to verse five ("made us alive," NIV). Here Paul emphasizes that he and other Jewish believers also had been under the control of sin before they became Christians.

Thus, the Gentiles to whom he wrote, as well as we today, can relate to what is being said. The main point of this passage is that all people without Christ need to be delivered from their sins.

The second passage occurs in Ephesians 2:4-9 and explains what being dead, but alive

means. Verse five states that God "made us alive with Christ." An unbeliever, spiritually dead is "made...alive with Christ." The only way a spiritually dead person can communicate with God is to be made alive. Remember that God is the living God, "who gives life to the dead" (Rom. 4:17).

Also, notice that "faith" does not refer to a gift of God. "Faith" is not a "work." It does not merit salvation; it is the only means by which anyone accepts God's free salvation.

In verse eight the pronouns in "and this" and "it is the gift of God" refer to "the act of being saved," not to faith. Paul emphasizes that all believers, both Jews and Gentiles, are delivered from their sins because of what God did in Christ out of his love, mercy, and grace. Salvation is a free gift, not the result of works.

The third passage occurs in Ephesians 2:10 and explains what being alive and showing it means. In verse 10 "prepared

in advance" ("before ordained," KJV) points to good works as the natural result of being saved.

Good works are a result God had in mind when he first planned salvation. Here Paul emphasizes that God's purpose in saving people has always been for believers to work for him.

God expects Christians to show they have received the new life in Jesus Christ by living for him. This means living according to the truth of God's Word. Living for Christ affects the friends we should have, the way we talk, the type of jokes we tell and laugh at, whether we are selfish with our love or focus on others, and a host of other areas of our lives.

To put it short, we could take a lesson from our youth. Just ask ourselves in every area of our life W.W.J.D. (What Would Jesus Do)? Next time you are tempted, ask yourself W.W.J.D. and then follow Jesus' example.

Brumfield is interim pastor of Goodwater Church, Forest.

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News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

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Former BWA president returns to roots



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)
- But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).
- If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

With a simple philosophy drawn from Matt. 9:35, Nilson do Amaral Fanini ministers among the squalid and drug-infested slums of Brazil.

The former president of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) said Jesus preached "the total Gospel to the total man ... soul, mind, and body." So he does the same.

Fanini, a 1958 graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, is the pastor of the 8,000-member First Church of Neteroi, Brazil.

In an interview during his February visit at Southwestern, Fanini credited the size and success of the church to strict obedience to the example set by Jesus in the first Gospel: He preached, he taught, and he healed.

A missionary from Texas planted the church in Neteroi, but quite a lot has changed since the church's inception there.

The church now sponsors national television and radio programs and crusades and also operates a seminary in addition to its Sunday School.

Such efforts touch on the first two elements of Jesus' example in Matthew 9, Fanini noted.

The third element in the example — meeting the needs

of the body — is extremely important in a Third World country, Fanini said.

"Every time Jesus met somebody, first he touched the body," he said.

His church in Neteroi is seeking to follow Jesus' lead. The church currently works with 1,200 children from the slums of Neteroi who would be forced into drug trafficking if not for their assistance, Fanini said.

"We have a bakery, so we give bread to the children to sell it, not drugs."

The church also sponsors a school where the poor can learn professional skills. Approximately 5,000 people attend the school, while others in prison receive instruction in carpentry and computer science. Fanini hopes the trades will promote lives free of crime as the inmates return to society.

The church distributes 52 tons of food per year, he said, and also offers clinics with more than 118 doctors. The pattern has achieved enough success to garner the attention of ministries in dozens of other Third World countries.

Fanini has been pastor of the church for 38 years, but the church is far from the only thing that keeps his schedule full. Believing that God gave him the gift of evangelism, he has used that gift in preaching in 109 countries around the world.

He preaches fluently in Portuguese, Spanish, and

English but has also preached in German and Italian, leading more than 1,000 crusades in Brazil, Latin America, and all over the world.

The largest crusade where he preached was in Nagaland, India, where in one service, approximately 750,000 people heard the gospel message. Fanini said approximately 40,000 people made decisions to follow Christ that day.

Fanini also recalled another crusade in Cuba. He preached to thousands but no one

came forward. "The secret police were down front, so the people knew that anyone who converted to Christianity would face losing their job," Fanini said.

He also was given the opportunity of sharing the Gospel personally with Fidel Castro. Castro, he said, had read much of the Bible but still refused the message. The Cuban people, however, were more open to the Gospel.

"The Cubans don't believe anymore in the revolution," Fanini said. "They know today that the revolution is not the solution for them. Jesus Christ is the solution."



EVER-EVANGELISTIC — Brazilian pastor Nilson Fanini, who underscored the priority of evangelism as Baptist World Alliance president, greets Southwestern Seminary President Ken Hemphill in visiting his alma mater Feb. 15. (BP photo)

While traveling around the world and meeting with numerous presidents and dignitaries, evangelism has remained his focus, Fanini said, including his presidency of BWA from 1995-2000 and his recent election for the 11th time to the presidency of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

"The church must do evangelism and missions," he declared. Behind his efforts at evangelism and his commitment to leadership in Baptist life is his seminary education.

"Right here [at Southwestern] is where I got my vision for the world," Fanini said.

Bibliocipher

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SRCGZ HUG: GLNDBGGU

Clue: T = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Thirteen: Eight.

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